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9_24_Minutes

Park and Recreation Commission
Minutes
Tuesday, September 24, 2013 @ 7:00 PM
Approved

The Park and Recreation Commission came to order at 7:00 PM on the first floor of the Arlington Senior Center on Tuesday, September 24, 2013.

Members in attendance included: Leslie Mayer, Shirley Canniff, Don Vitters, Jim Robillard and Jen Rothenberg. Also in attendance were Director of Recreation Joseph Connelly and Recreation Supervisor Dan McGrath.

Members from the public: Representatives from architectural firms Waterfield Crowe, Gary/Marshall, Weston and Sampson, Carolyn Cooney and Leonard Design. Adria Arch was also in attendance.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Rothenberg motioned to approve the minutes of September 10, 2013, seconded by Mr. Vitters and approved 5-0.

Open Forum – Public Comments

No public comments.

Interviews of Landscape Architects

Landscape architects each had 15 minutes to present their proposals for North Union Spray Park and Hibbert Playground. The architects included Waterfield Crowe, Gary/Marshall, Weston and Sampson, Carolyn Cooney and Leonard Design.

Each firm gave an overview of their company, talked about project experience and each project's potential. Following each presentation, there was a 10 minute Q&A. Questions raised included the recirculation system at the spray park (hydraulic or electric), playground equipment manufacturers, water features, safety surfacing, charging for spray park facilities and fencing.

After all presentations were complete, the Commission had a brief discussion and expressed its preference to move forward with Weston and Sampson.

Proposal for Art in the Park – Adria Arch

Mr. Connelly discussed the list of concerns identified through discussion with Town Counsel regarding an Art in the Park or Artist in Residence Program, as previously proposed by Ms. Arch.

The specific location(s) where art will be displayed would need to be identified. The Commission could approve several locations. Ms. Rothenberg suggested looking to Ms. Arch to recommend locations.

The application process was discussed. It was suggested that the Arlington Public Art Committee could review the applications and then make recommendations to the Commission. An agreement will need to be put together, which would include a waiver of release, in addition to a bond. The artist must commit to regularly inspect, maintain and remove the piece when the time comes - leaving the site in its original condition. Ms. Arch has a waiver she can share with the Commission that she received from a different project in another community.

Mr. Connelly suggested the possibility of putting together an event in the spring that would be open to multiple artists in the community. Based on the success of and feedback on this event, an Art in the Park program could move forward. Ms. Arch could apply for a grant for the spring event.

Mr. Connelly and Ms. Arch will meet and discuss further.

Capital Improvement Project Update

Florence Avenue Playground – The playground looks great and is scheduled to open by October 15th.

The rubberized surface materials need to be ordered. Mr. Connelly and Ms. Canniff reviewed the samples for the 3-color rubberized surface and took a field trip to review several sites with the surfacing in place. The manufacturer uses less expensive glue for samples, so the sample squares appeared yellow and are not really representative of the color when the specified glue is used. There was also concern with the blue color being too bright. The Commission agreed to go with 50% black, 30% light gray and 20% pearl for the gray area and 50% black, 25% slate blue and 25% rain blue for the blue area.

The design of the rubberized surface was discussed. Ms. Canniff was concerned with the seams, where the blue/gray colors meet, and recommended making the whole area blue. Mr. Vitters felt that it would take away from the design and uniqueness. The Commission decided to go with the blue/gray design, as previously approved, in lieu of all blue.

CBA is starting the design work on the prototype for a general park sign that will be used at Florence first.

ADA Study – The ADA study is out to bid.

Special Requests – There were no special requests.

Off Leash Dog Review – No Report

Rink and Recreation Update – No Report

Ms. Canniff motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Vitters and approved 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:
Joseph Connelly, Director of Recreation